FOCUS ON FAMINE

‘It has become so normal to hear people talk about losing a family member’

Emmanuela Bringi , metroNEWS

Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

High 6°C/Low -2°C Mostly sunny

Bracelets an ‘insult’

Const. Daniel Montsion kneels by Abdirahman Abdi outside his apartment building at 55 Hilda St. on July 24, 2016. YOUTUBE

ABDI CASE

Leaders say ‘unity’ stance for accused officer may sow discord with public

Ottawa police leaders are asking fellow officers wearing wristbands in solidarity with a colleague charged in the death of a Somali-Canadian man to think carefully about the message it sends to the community.

“We must take into account the community perceptions of actions like these wristbands,” Chief Charles Bordeleau wrote Wednesday in an email to staff.

“There has already been a great deal of negative commentary, and we should all be concerned about the long-term impact on public trust this could create,” he wrote. “I am also concerned about how it may impact members during the course of their duties.”

The message comes after the CBC reported members of the force were buying black-and-blue silicone wristbands in support of Const. Daniel Montsion, 36, charged in the July 2016 death of 37-year-old Abdirahman Abdi.

The bracelet some officers have purchased through a Facebook group. TWITTER

Adbi was pronounced dead in hospital a day after a physical altercation with two police constables who responded to calls about a disturbance at an Ottawa coffee shop. Montsion faces charges of manslaughter, aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

The wristbands, according to the CBC, bear Montsion’s badge number and the message “United we stand; divided we fall.”

The death of Abdi, a black Muslim, triggered protests in Ottawa last summer, as well as in Toronto and Montreal.

The Justice for Abdirahman Coalition, which has been pushing for more transparency, expressed “outrage” over the wristbands, calling the campaign an “insult” to the family of Abdi and those fighting against “police brutality.”

“This particular act of solidarity demonstrates a blatant disregard for human life,” the coalition said Wednesday in a news release.

In his message, Bordeleau said he understands the “sentiment” behind members wanting to show support for Montsion, but that “the executive, the chain of command and his association” are already supporting him in the court process.

Eli El-Chantiry, chair of the police board, said in a statement he understood why police officers would want to show support for their colleague.

“However, the wristbands, even if well-meaning, have unintended consequences and are divisive,” said El-Chantiry, a local city councillor.

“We need to take a step back and reflect on the bigger picture in this case. As a community, we need to move away from an ‘us’ versus ‘them’ mentality.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Also inside | STUDENTS’ HUNGRY-LOOKING CAR FAR FROM A GAS-GUZZLER | TRANSIT CREDIT IS GONE BUT RIDERS WILL STAY: EXPERTS | STO DRIVERS TO RESUME STRIKES | metro NEWS

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Britain has triggered a two-year divorce process from the European Union. **World**

Social housing fund favours city

DEVELOPMENT

More land in capital than other big Canadian cities

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The federal budget's promise to provide land at low cost for affordable-housing projects could give the national capital region a distinct advantage in shortening wait times for those in need.

Last week municipal politicians and housing advocates praised the budget's $11.2 billion dedicated to housing initiatives.

Within that allocation was $202 million set aside over the next 11 years to expand a program called Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative, which doles out federal land for new affordable housing.

The sheer number of federal properties in Ottawa could make a real difference, according to the city's homelessness liaison Coun. Mark Taylor

"I would argue we stand to gain a little bit disproportionately," he said. "The federal government owns a lot of land coast to coast to coast, but in the national capital they tend to own a lot of land."

Ottawa boasts exponentially more federally-owned land than the amount found in other large Canadian municipalities, including Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary. The government's federal land database lists properties totalling 24,313 hectares of land and 1,777 buildings within city limits.

The majority of those properties are occupied, leased out or are classified as greenspace. It's the underused land in already built-up areas — close to transit — that offer opportunity.

"Any land will offer us opportunities for new builds and to create those homes that are so required," said Stephane Giguere, CEO from Ottawa Community Housing, the largest provider of subsidized housing in the city. "If you look at land acquisition for affordable housing, we are always looking at land that could also be serving private interests."

> **We stand to gain a little bit disproportionately.**
> Coun. Mark Taylor

There are currently over 10,000 people on Ottawa's subsidized-housing waiting list. The average wait time is five to seven years, according to Giguere.

Land in desirable built-up locations close to transit comes at a premium cost for both commercial developers and non-profit housing.

Coun. Taylor said the land at 289 Carling St., which is currently being transferred by the federal government to the city for a supportive-housing development, is a good example.

"It's not a field out in Barrhaven," he said. "This is a place where once we build supportive housing people who live there are going to be in the community and they will be close to supports."

The land at Carling is worth an estimated $7 million; the government is willing to pass it on for $1, instead of market value.

Taylor said the land at Tunney's Pasture, west of downtown, is another example of a valuable property that the federal government could consider for the program. It was previously seen as land to be sold off for condos, but the changing government priorities could mean it's made available for subsidized housing instead.

"Now all the meetings begin in a frenzy with their staff, our staff, figuring out what this means," said Taylor.

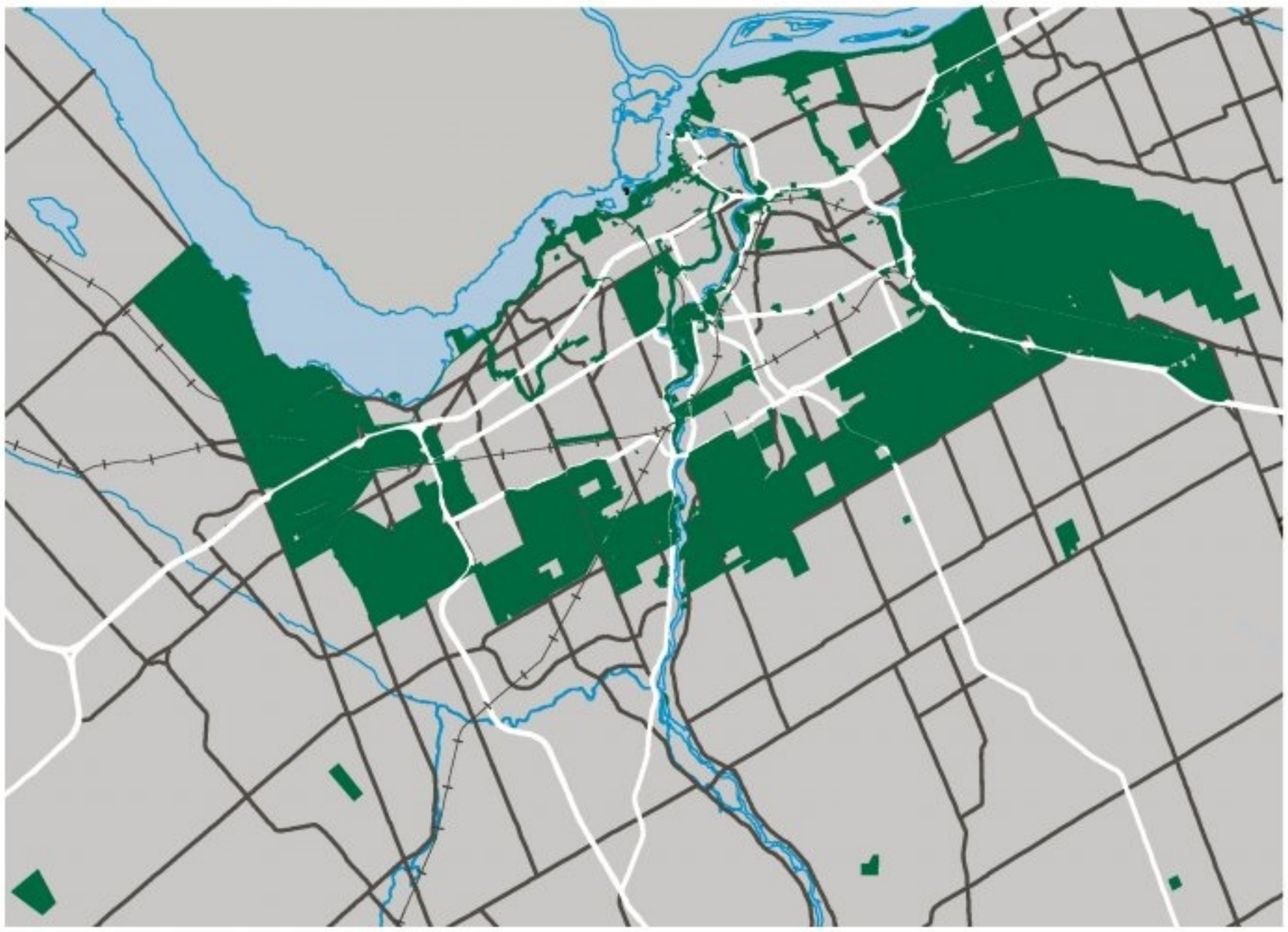
"The next step for (the federal government) is to signal to us which properties they want to divest of. I don't have a list of properties that we would like; they'll give us a list of properties they want to give up and we'll work with them to see which ones are appropriate for housing."

24,313

Altogether the federal government owns a total of 24,313 hectares of property across the City of Ottawa.

MAPPED | OTTAWA RICH WITH FEDERALLY-OWNED PROPERTY

Ottawa is home to much more federally controlled property than any other major Canadian city, including Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary. The government's federal land database lists properties totalling 24,313 hectares of land and 1,777 buildings within city limits.



Property owned by the federal government

LABOUR

Liberals slam the door on unpaid internships for non-students

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

A change introduced in the budget last week is closing the door on unpaid internships.

The Liberals introduced proposed changes to the Labour Code as part of the budget, which if passed, will prohibit companies from offering unpaid internships unless they are part of a program with a post-secondary institution.

Labour Minister Patty Hajdu said they believe interns should be paid for the work they're doing and they wanted to close the loophole.

"They can be unfair and exploitative if there is not some pretty strong guidelines around them," she said of the unpaid internships.

She said there are few scenarios that call for unpaid internships and this will limit it to those options with schools watching closely.

She said the move will also ensure interns are covered by labour standards and won't be taken advantage of for wanting to help.

"Young people are hopeful and they want to prove to employers that they're reliable and they have the skills employers are looking for," she said.

Claire Seaborn, chair of the advisory board for the Canadian Intern Association, said the change is overdue.

"The next step would certainly be that interns be paid even if they are part of a school program," she said.

Only a handful of sectors are regulated by the federal government, including banking, transportation and telecommunications. Seaborn said this change will catch the federal government up to where the provinces already are.

She said the public realizes these internships are unfair and is starting to demand change and she doesn't believe companies will drop internship programs just because they have to pay minimum wage.

"It has a lot more to do with public pressure."

Tax credit, transit ridership not linked

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Data suggest other factors were more influential

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The federal government's decision to discontinue the public transit tax credit likely won't cause a mass exodus from Ottawa buses, experts told Metro.

In last week's budget, the 15 per cent non-refundable tax rebate was eliminated. Finance Minister Bill Morneau said in announcing the measure that the credit was not encouraging people to take transit to the extent it was designed to.

Statistics from the City of Ottawa show that 1,218,237 monthly passes were sold in 2006, the year the tax credit was introduced, and that 1,273,539 were sold in the first full year the credit was in place — a jump of 55,000 passes.

But transit-pass sales dropped by 32,000 between 2011 and 2012 and by 172,000 between 2011 and 2014. "That was the economy and the job loss," said Pat Scrimgeour, the city's director of transit customer systems and planning.

"We had a lot of job loss in Ottawa and a lot of jobs moving out to suburban locations."

He said the city doesn't know and won't know until next year if losing the tax deduction will change things, but he believes the economy and other factors have been more influential than the tax incentive.

> **We had a lot of job loss in Ottawa and a lot of jobs moving out to suburban locations.**
>
> Pat Scrimgeour on the drop in fares for 2011 to 2014

Nicholas Rivers, a professor at the University of Ottawa, studied the tax credit and determined it grew transit ridership by between 0.25 and one per cent. He said it's difficult to ascribe causes to people's transit-related purchasing decisions because many factors are involved.

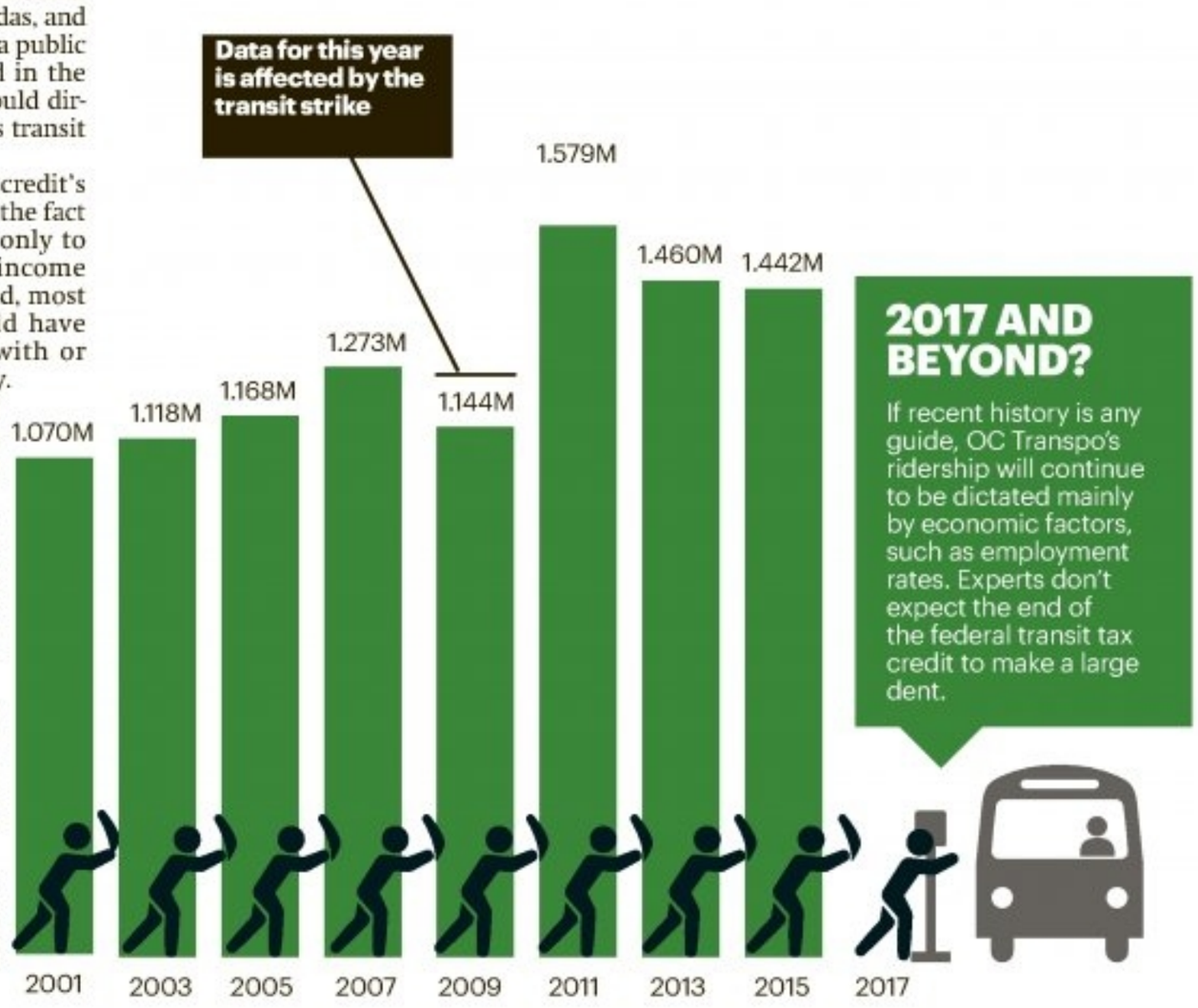
"If we had two Canadas, and in one Canada we had a public transit tax credit, and in the other we didn't, we could directly compare people's transit behaviour," he said.

Rivers said that the credit's impact was limited by the fact that it was available only to people who met an income threshold. And, he said, most eligible people would have been transit riders with or without the tax policy.

"Government was giving money to 24 out of 25 people to not change their behaviour," he said. Rivers said that most research shows the best way to get people out of their cars is to make driving expensive.

Speaking to Metro on budget day, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said ridership is not the only metric that should matter.

"It's one of the things that gave people who used public transit a bit of a break."



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PARKING

Bid to cure downtown congestion

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Adding an extra $2 to current downtown parking rates could help alleviate road congestion, according to a report commissioned by four city councillors.

In addition to the parking surcharge, the report looks at three other potential levies: a highway toll; a "cordon charge," which would ding motorists each time they entered the downtown during peak times; and a higher gas tax.

The study suggests that hiking parking costs would be the best of the four options, projecting that the policy would reduce the volume of the daily morning commute by 136,283 vehicles. And 12,498 more people would be motivated to use transit instead, the report says.

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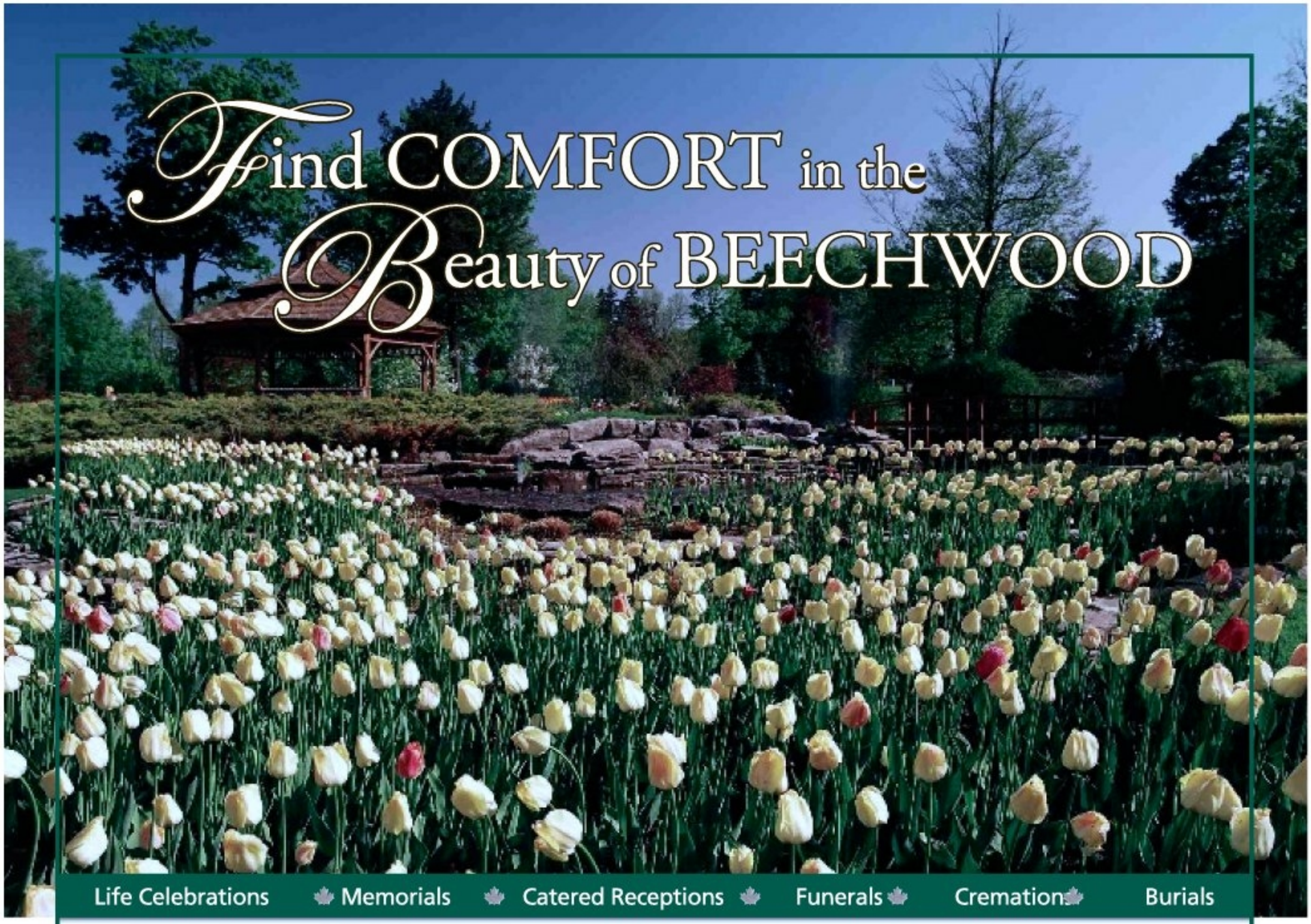

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University of Ottawa engineering students Nicholas Fekete and Marc-Andre Caron stand on the left, beside driver Isabella Jiminez with Marcel Girard and Jason Mongenais on the right. The team is competing in a super high-mileage competition in April next month. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO OTTAWA

Vying to be gods of gas mileage

INNOVATION

Engineering students hope to go long way on a litre of fuel

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

A group of University of Ottawa students are hoping to boldly go further than anyone has every gone before on a single litre of gas.

The team of engineering students is headed to Detroit next month for the Shell Eco-marathon, in which hundreds of teams will compete to achieve mind-blowing feats of fuel efficiency

Patrick Dumond, the Ottawa team's faculty adviser, said the competition is a great opportunity for the students to take ideas from classroom and apply them where the rubber hits the road.

"In school they learn a lot of theory, the equations that go into engineering. They don't deal with a lot of practical applications," he said.

Dumond competed in the event in 2010, when he was a student.

He said that while his team didn't even make it onto the track, it was a tremendous learning experience.

He said the student-designed cars push the limit of what's possible: some can travel 2,000 or even 3,000 miles on a single litre.

> **"if we don't need something we cut it off."**
> Nicholas Fekete

"One of the previous versions of this car went the equivalent of Ottawa to Winnipeg," he said.

The uOttawa vehicle has a carbon-fibre frame with specially made wheels and engine.

The whole vehicle weighs less than 50 kilograms and cost about $40,000 to build.

Nicholas Fekete worked on the windshield for this year's car. He said the project is about finding every last piece of weight, every inch of refinement.

"Every weight, every gram if we don't need something we cut it off. If something is needed can we make it out of aluminum instead of steel," he said.

He said the challenge has been a great experience.

"It's amazing. Lately, I am saying that I go to school to work on this."

GATINEAU

Transit operators to continue rolling strikes in Outaouais

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Gatineau's transit operator is warning riders that drivers will be striking once again on Thursday, interrupting bus service in the Outaouais region.

It would be the third day since March 16 that union members have walked off the job and picketed outside the STO's maintenance facility. The union, which represents drivers and mechanics, is pressuring the organization into arbitration.

The union has been without a contract since December 2014. In January transit workers voted 98 per cent in favour of striking.

On Tuesday the STO apologized for the inconvenience to passengers and defended their bargaining efforts, saying the union's demands add up to $18 million, including the purchase of nine more buses. Paratransit will not be affected by the strike.

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Nature's light show

ASTRONOMY

Better-than-normal chance to see aurora borealis now

An aurora painted across the sky during a night excursion with Northern Tales Travel Services.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadians may be treated to an unexpected light show this week, according to the Weather Network.

In a Twitter moment posted on Tuesday, the Weather Network said "all of Canada has a chance to see the Aurora Borealis."

"If you have clear skies over the next few nights, try to get outside and somewhere dark," the Twitter moment read.

People from across Canada, ranging from Strathmore, Alta., to Prince Albert, Sask., to Thunder Bay, Ont., posted photos on Twitter of the northern lights, which were visible Monday night.

And the aurora borealis could be visible as far south as the Great Lakes, according to the Weather Network.

The northern lights "appear as a result of activity on the sun's surface," according to Randy Attwood, executive director for The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

"It releases highly energetic particles through its solar winds which interact with our magnetic field and atmosphere," Rachel Ward-Maxwell, a researcher-programmer in astronomy and space sciences with the Ontario Science Centre said.

"If the sun is particularly active that can result in a spectacular light show for us."

This week's light show is because of a crack in the sun's atmosphere known as a coronal hole, according to Yvette Cendes, a PhD student in astronomy at the University of Toronto.

This allows for more particles to "stream through than usual, triggering the northern lights."

"For the next few days, the hole is pointed towards Earth but as the sun rotates, it's going to be rotated somewhere else, not directly at us," Cendes said.

"The lights will likely look green in colour," Ward-Maxwell said.

"Why not take the opportunity to go out and look at the skies? It's a very rare event. Most people don't get the opportunity to see it," Ward-Maxwell said.

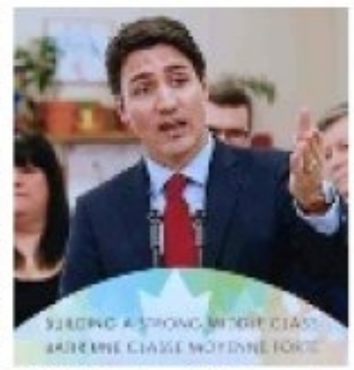
"Even if you don't get to see the northern lights, you still get to enjoy a starry night sky."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Trudeau is heckled, but committed to carbon tax

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he's still committed to a carbon tax despite U.S. President Donald Trump's move to eliminate many restrictions on fossil fuel production and roll back measures to combat climate change.

"Canadian economic and environmental policy will be determined in Ottawa, not in Washington, D.C.," Trudeau said in a CBC interview Wednesday.



Justin Trudeau Wednesday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We know that climate change means that we're going to have to walk down a lower carbon path in the coming decades. The question is, do we want to be dragged into that future kicking and screaming or do we want to lead it, like the innovators we can be."

Trudeau said there is a tremendous opportunity for Canadian innovation and leadership on climate change.

Trump, who has called global warming a hoax invented by the Chinese, has said he would kill former president Barack Obama's climate plans.

An executive order signed by Trump Tuesday initiates a review of Obama's signature plan to restrict greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

There will also be a review of efforts to reduce methane emissions in oil and natural gas production. Trump also plans to rescind Obama-era actions that addressed climate change and national security and efforts to prepare the U.S. for the effects of climate change.

Earlier in the day, Trudeau held a news conference in Winnipeg that was interrupted by a protester who called the prime minister a scumbag.

The man carried a camcorder as he heckled Trudeau about the carbon tax while the prime minister answered other questions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A protester on Wednesday after Britain formally invoked Article 50 to start the process of withdrawal from the EU. GETTY IMAGES

U.K. files for divorce

BREXIT

It's not EU, it's me: Britain says goodbye after 44 years

Britain filed for divorce from the European Union on Wednesday, with fond words and promises of friendship that could not disguise the historic nature of the schism — or the years of argument and hard-nosed bargaining ahead.

Prime Minister Theresa May triggered the two-year divorce process in a six-page letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk, vowing that Britain will maintain a "deep and special partnership" with its neighbours in the bloc. In response, Tusk told Britain: "We already miss you."

May's invocation of Article 50 of the EU's key treaty sets the clock ticking on two years of negotiations until Britain becomes the first major nation to leave the union — at midnight on March 29, 2019.

The U.K.'s departure could not come at a worse time for the EU, which has grown from six founding members six decades ago to a vast, largely borderless span of 28 nations and half a billion people. Nationalist and populist parties are on the march across the continent in revolt against the bloc's mission of "ever-closer union." And in Washington, President Donald Trump has derided the EU, NATO and other pillars of Western order built up since World War II.

"This is an historic moment from which there can be no turning back," May told lawmakers in the House of Commons, moments after her letter was hand-delivered to Tusk in Brussels by Britain's ambassador to the EU, Tim Barrow.

In the letter, May said the two sides should "engage with one another constructively and respectfully, in a spirit of sincere co-operation."

But for all the warmth, the next two years will be a tough test of the notion that divorcees can remain good friends.

Britons voted 52 per cent to 48 per cent in favour of leaving the bloc in a referendum nine months ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ITALY

Women could get paid menstrual leave

The Italian parliament is considering a bill that, if approved, would require employers to grant women three days of paid leave every month, according to the Washington Post.

To qualify for menstrual leave, the Post said, women would need a certificate from a medical specialist. The bill says that between 60 and 90 per cent of women suffer from painful periods.

The bill was presented on March 13 by four women lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Party. It could be approved in the coming months.

But critics worry that it might deter companies from hiring women.

"The demand for female employees among companies might decrease, or women could be further penalized both in terms of salary and career advancement," said Daniela Piazzalunga, an economist at research institute Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TERROR

Honouring victims of London attack with unity

Police officers, Muslim youths and hundreds more linked hands Wednesday on Westminster Bridge to honour the four people who died in an attack that started on the span a week earlier.

The bridge fell silent at 2:40 p.m. to mark the moment when Khalid Masood began mowing down pedestrians, killing three: American tourist Kurt Cochran, 54, retired window cleaner Leslie Rhodes, 75, and school administrator Aysha Frade, 44.

Masood then fatally stabbed police constable Keith Palmer, 48, on the grounds of Parliament.

Police say Masood, a native Briton, was inspired by extremist ideology, but that there's no evidence he had direct links to the Islamic State group or al-Qaida.

Staff from St Thomas' hospital, where many of the injured were treated, joined the vigil.

Schoolchildren clutched yellow roses and held signs reading, "Islam says no to terror" and "Please don't kill innocent people." Hundreds of members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association wore T-shirts with the message "I am a Muslim, ask me anything."

Zafir Malik, an imam from the association, said the group wanted to show the attack had nothing to do with Islam. "We're here to show that we are united with our fellow countrymen and remembering those who have fallen, especially Keith Palmer," he said. "We are here and showing our solidarity for the country." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People linking hands on the bridge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FOCUS ON FAMINE

DAY 4: South Sudan

A South Sudanese girl, Elizabeth Kegi, receives treatment at Al Shabbab Hospital in Juba, South Sudan.
GETTY IMAGES

'We can't afford to be hopeless'

Members of the South Sudanese diaspora in Canada watch the world's youngest country descend into abyss.

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There are times when Emmanuela Bringi switches into panic mode — like when phone lines are cut off and she's unable to reach her relatives in South Sudan.

"You're always fearing the worst," said Bringi, a South Sudanese-Canadian in London, Ont. She's especially concerned about her wheelchair-bound grandmother who has diabetes and lives on her own in a country ravaged by constant interethnic conflict and a famine crisis.

"She can't even get access to health care because there are no clinics," she said, adding that many others have died from lack of health care and food. "It has become so normal to hear people talk about losing a family member, as if death is something that's just supposed to happen. It's not."

The United Nations has already declared a full-blown famine in two counties in Unity State, and nearly two-thirds of the country's entire population is food insecure. The situation is a direct result of the long-standing conflict that has killed thousands and forced nearly four million people out of their homes, making them unable to work the fields or tend to cattle.

> **They need to stop the fighting.**
> Amanie Aman

Even humanitarian intervention isn't spared. Just last weekend, six aid workers were killed in an ambush outside the capital city of Juba. Since 2013, at least 79 aid workers have lost their lives in South Sudan, according to the UN.

As they watch the world's youngest country descend into abyss, members of the South Sudanese diaspora in Canada are running campaigns to contribute to relief efforts.

"Our morale is down but we can't afford to be hopeless," said Joseph Kau, a student in Toronto struggling to send remittances to his two sisters and a brother in the country's south.

Toronto-based pop singer and model Amanie Aman, whose family came to Canada in the 1990s, believes the best solution to the famine lies in ending the chronic circle of violence.

"They need to stop the fighting," she said of President Salva Kiir and his main archrival Riek Machar. "That's when they'll be able to allocate proper funds towards actually feeding the people and allowing help and aid to come in."

BY THE NUMBERS | SOUTH SUDAN

$298.8 million / **$1.6 billion**
Total funds raised so far / Funds required to avert a famine

1 out of 2
South Sudan has a population of 11.3 million. Of those, **5.8 million people are food insecure** and need humanitarian aid

100,000
People already suffering from famine

SOURCE: UN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The South Sudanese diaspora across the country are leading efforts to collect funds and donate.

- **South Sudanese community in the GTHA** will hold a fundraising event on May 20, at Howard Johnson Hotel in Kitchener. unicef.ca/stopthefamine
- **Action Against Hunger** runs emergency food and nutrition programs inside South Sudan, plus some interventions on livelihoods and water and sanitation. To get involved or donate, visit actioncontrelafaim.ca/donate
- **World Vision** is the biggest implementing partner of the World Food Program in East Africa. Private donations can be made at worldvision.ca

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and a local expat.

READ THIS SERIES FROM THE BEGINNING
metronews.ca

Joo-Meng and Rosanna Soh and their four children outside their new home in Oakville, Ont. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sellers turn down highest bid

HOUSING

Family get house with $150,000 off

How much is enough when it comes to selling a home in the Toronto area's scorched-earth real estate market?

For Michelle Croft and her husband, it turned out that enough was about $150,000 less than the highest of the 14 offers on their Oakville house last Thursday.

"Greed is good" was a solid premise for the 1987 movie Wall Street, but it doesn't make for a great life, Croft said from Colorado, where she and her husband have relocated.

They wanted to sell to a family that would cherish the neighbours and the community that had been the base for what Croft called their 15-year Canadian adventure.

They found those buyers in an email attached to an offer from Joo-Meng and Rosanna Soh, who had made the unusual decision to downsize with their four children aged 9 to 14.

After six weeks of missionary work in Uganda last year, "We came home changed. We find ourselves looking at things differently," they wrote.

"Part of our goal is not just becoming mortgage free but also allowing us to work less and to have more available time to go on mission trips," Joo-Meng said.

The education therapist and her physician husband call their move a journey of faith. They are trading a 3,600-square-foot home for 1,983 square feet.

Both realtors involved in the transaction say they have been heartened by the experience.

"I have faith in humanity again" said the Crofts' agent, Tracy Nursall of Sage Real Estate. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SMARTPHONES

Samsung aiming to bury Note 7 debacle

Samsung seems to be playing it safe as it unveils its first major smartphone since the embarrassing recall of its fire-prone Note 7.

The Galaxy S8 will come in two sizes, both bigger than comparable models from last year. But battery capacity isn't increasing, despite the larger sizes, meaning more breathing room for the battery.

Samsung had pushed the engineering envelope with the Note 7 battery, which contributed to spontaneous combustions.

The phone, announced Wednesday, will come out April 21. The standard-size S8 will cost about $750 and the larger S8 Plus about $850 — both about $100 more than comparable iPhones and rival Android phones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 58

KEW-BALMY BEACH, TORONTO

MY FAVOURITE SCENERY IS THE LINE ON THE HORIZON WHERE THE SKY MEETS THE WATER. I'M SO GRATEFUL TO LIVE IN THE CITY WHERE ONE CAN WITNESS THIS AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
KATIA OSTAPENKO

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD
Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards.**

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metro VIEW
Vicky Mochama Ishmael Daro
New episode March 31 featuring Justin Ling and Shireen Ahmed
Safe Space

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE TORIES' LEADERSHIP RACE

There is little doubt that the choice of a polarizing leader, one who is unloved by his caucus to boot, would shrink the Conservative tent to the Liberals' advantage.

Now that deadline has passed for Conservative rivals to sign up new members for the May leadership vote, here are a handful of observations on the fluid state of play in the battle for Stephen Harper's succession:

1. There are still 14 names on the Conservative ballot, but a consensus is emerging that the must-watch list is down to five. That may be a generous number. The names on the list are Kevin O'Leary, Maxime Bernier, Kelly Leitch, Erin O'Toole and Andrew Scheer.

For different reasons and to varying degrees, the first three are polarizing figures whose signature policies divide the party and have moderate appeal, to put it mildly, within the caucus of 97 MPs.

O'Leary and Bernier are the presumed front-runners.

But they may not be the second or third choice of enough Conservatives to go the distance.

That is even more true of Leitch. You either like her Trump-style approach to immigration issues a lot or dislike it intensely. There is no middle ground

O'Toole and Scheer are locked in a battle to be the fallback candidate. That battle has been picking up speed over the past few weeks.

2. Harper's succession could have turned into a battle-by-proxy between the two factions that resumed their cohabitation within a reunified Conservative party over his decade in power. The old divide between former Tories and ex-Reformers could have resurfaced over the yearlong leadership campaign.

That is not happening.

Or, at least, it is not happening in a defining way.

None of the presumed front-runners has emerged as a stalking horse for one or other of the two factions. If anything, some of the leading figures on both sides of the Conservative schism of the recent past are looking beyond the front-runners for a possible successor to Harper.

From his new niche as Alberta's Tory leader, Jason Kenney used an editorial board meeting with Postmedia this week to warn Conservative members against O'Leary. He says the reality-TV star is unqualified to lead the federal party.

On Tuesday, former Progressive Conservative leader Peter MacKay showed up at a fundraising event for Ontario MP Erin O'Toole.

Neither Kenney nor MacKay has had a kind word for the identity-driven immigration policies promoted by Leitch.

3. If it were up to the Conservative caucus, neither O'Leary, nor Bernier (nor Leitch) would succeed Harper. A majority of Quebec MPs have declined to back Bernier. Most of them oppose his bid to end supply management in the dairy industry and his contention that the federal government should not have helped the auto industry at the time of the global economic crisis or, more recently, aerospace giant Bombardier.

OLD WOUNDS The race to replace Stephen Harper has not brought back the divide between former Tories and supporters of the Reform Party, Chantal Hébert writes. (Clockwise from top left: Kellie Leitch, Kevin O'Leary, Maxime Bernier, Erin O'Toole).
THE CANADIAN PRESS, METROLAND NEWS SERVICE

In the battle for caucus endorsements, O'Toole and Scheer have the leading roles. Whether that will help either of them bridge the distance from second to the top tier is an open question. But, for many MPs, the choice at this juncture seems to hinge on which of those second-tier candidates has the best chance of coming up the middle.

4. As they watch part of the Conservative establishment scramble to prevent O'Leary from parlaying his celebrity status into the leader's job, the Liberals and the NDP have no cause to be smug about their own selection process. They are not immune to an O'Leary-style stunt.

At least the Conservatives, by giving each riding equal weight in the leadership vote, have some safeguards in place to make it harder for a social media rock star to turn his or her following into a flood of supporters.

The New Democrats elect their leader through the universal suffrage of their members, without distinction of region or riding. It is not necessary to become a full-fledged party member to participate in a Liberal leadership vote. It is enough to be a sympathizer.

Under a straight one-member-one vote leadership formula, O'Leary, whose main asset in this campaign has been name recognition, might have a bigger lead on the competition than he does under the weighted Conservative process.

5. There is little doubt that the choice of a polarizing leader, one who is unloved by his caucus to boot, would shrink the Conservative tent to the Liberals' advantage.

Anyone who covered the near-implosion of the Canadian Alliance under Stockwell Day 15 years ago has first-hand knowledge of the perils of electing a leader who is not equipped to command or keep the respect of his or her caucus.

O'Leary and Bernier are the presumed front-runners.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

How to talk to a black woman at work in 12 easy steps

Vicky Mochama
Metro

U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters was doing one of her "The president is a lying nepotist who is running a kleptocracy and he has got to go" speeches. Upon hearing this gospel, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly was struck dumb, because he then said a dumb thing: "I didn't hear a word she said. I was looking at the James Brown wig."

You're not going to disrespect a black woman without hearing about it, no sir. O'Reilly's comment inspired the #BlackWomenAtWork hashtag. Scrolling through, it was clear that so many bosses, colleagues and clients don't know how to talk to professional black women.

To help fix racism, I have put together a handy guide for them.

HOW TO TALK TO A BLACK WOMAN AT WORK

1. Ask about her hair.
2. Ask if the hair on her head belongs to her.
3. During work hours, ask if she washes her hair.
4. Use relatable and evocative language to describe to her the texture of her own hair. For example, "It feels like horsehair," and "It's like a rope."
5. Be sure to compliment her by saying – no, insisting – that she looks so different now that she's changed a tenth of her body that you didn't even recognize her! Say something like, "I see you almost every day but you are unrecognizable now that you have done a new thing with the top of your head." She will be thrilled her efforts have been recognized.
6. Be culturally aware by speaking to her on issues that matter to her. For example, her hair and how it has changed recently.
7. Build bridges with your colleague by running your hands through her hair. It's the personal touch that matters.
8. Hire a second one. You can't mistake two distinctly different black women for each other if you only have one!
9. When you mistake her for the other black woman at work, she will be comforted to know that you "meant the other one."
10. Now that there are two of them, it may seem as if they are only interested in talking to you about hair. Get to know your black female colleagues more during informal conversations about Africa, basketball, Barack Obama and that time you saw someone who might have been Denzel Washington but wasn't.
11. Help them (Fatima and Gloria? Gladys and Phyllis? It's an F-sound and a G-sound…) with their careers! Point them to opportunities suited to their skills, like typing courses. More advanced opportunities like travelling for work should be saved for Robert Windingfield, the intern who could really use the experience.
12. When Flora and Galadriel (confirm with HR) complain you've promoted Robert while they have Master's degrees, disarm with charm by saying, "Hey, girl, heyyyy. Love your hair, my woes."

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Oscar accountants won't be allowed to have cellphones backstage, says Cheryl Boone Isaacs

Bad boy Hynes takes us home

CANLIT

Author's new novel is set in Newfoundland, a place he loves

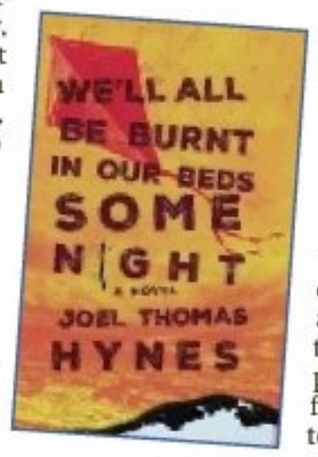
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

For a good chunk of the year, Joel Thomas Hynes lives in a flat in Toronto's Beaches neighbourhood. Here he is close to his teenage son, actor Percy Hynes White, and to his own acting work on film and television, for shows like Eyewitness and Orphan Black.

But come mid-May, the itch hits and the author heads for the road back home to Newfoundland. Except for last year, when he was already on the ferry, and got a call for a last-minute gig back in Ontario.

"When you come from Newfoundland, which has a small population, the industries are not huge so there's only so far you can go. You can't just be one thing in Newfoundland," says the multi-talented Hynes, who is also a filmmaker, musician and a playwright.

Right now, Hynes is taking a break in Dallas to chaperone Percy, who was cast in the new Marvel X-Men television series. But when he arrives back on the Rock, Hynes gets on his motorcycle and heads to his small house in the woods. "Newfoundlanders always have a tendency to go home. We have a very fierce relationship with the island," he says. Hynes craves the solitude, which suits his needs as a writer. "I live a very, very simple quiet existence for a couple months, then I go back to the big city."



Since his first novel, 2004's Down to the Dirt, Hynes has gained an international reputation as a bad boy of Canadian literature, thanks to his tough, violent protagonists, all anti-heroes with a predilection for booze, drugs and destructive relationships. His new book, We'll All Be Burnt in Our Beds Some Night, remains in the milieu of his other novels, recognizable for its immersive colloquial language and darkly comic situations (an accidental hot tub enema is most memorable). Here, Johnny Keough is awaiting trial for the assault of his girlfriend, Madonna, who he claims ran into a teapot he was holding while making "a run at him." When Madonna doesn't appear at court — turns out she was the victim of an unrelated fatal accident — a heartbroken Johnny takes off on a road trip to British Columbia to scatter her ashes on what he believes was her favourite beach (even if he doesn't exactly remember its name).

Although this novel marks the first time one of Hynes' protagonists has ventured off the island, Newfoundland is still the book's beating heart. Hynes observes a small, raw slice of a culture that won't appear in tourism ads or Broadway musicals, but one that is universal to hard-scrabble small-town life. Hynes says this book was his toughest challenge to date and admits that in the past he's received pressure to try a different style or setting to avoid a reputation as a "regional writer."

But, despite the book's travelling narrator, he hasn't backed down.

"Why can't I have Newfoundland and set my writing in a place that I love?

Hynes may not be done with writing about home, but he does believe that Johnny may be the last of his badass characters.

"The story is not autobiographical, though elements certainly are, and I maintain it's emotionally true," he says. "I figure I'm not in it to make millions, I'm in it to communicate what is true to me and a lot of themes and issues that have come up in my own life — family, destruction, man versus the all-powerful state — remain important to me on some level. But I think as a fiction writer, I've gotten it out of my system."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Multi-talented artist Joel Thomas Hynes sets his novel in a place he loves: Newfoundland, he says of his new book, We'll All Be Burnt in Our Beds Some Night. CONTRIBUTED

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Fonda and Tomlin series toys with life over the hill

INTERVIEW

Pair market product for women of their vintage

The message of Grace and Frankie is: There's life after 70.

And also your own brand of vibrator, according to this Netflix comedy's just-released new season.

Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin press on as the title characters whose longtime husbands (played by Martin Sheen and Sam Waterston) abruptly left them for each other at the series' inception.

"When our law-partner husbands tell us they've been having an affair for 20 years, we're bereft and cast adrift," says Tomlin.

"What happens when you're in your late 70s and the rug is pulled out from under you?" poses Fonda.

The answer they and their show are promoting: "There can be a third act that's pretty robust and pretty fun," as Fonda puts it. "Don't write us off just because we're over the hill. 'Cause there's a lot of other hills still to come that are pretty exciting."

Lily Tomlin, left, and Jane Fonda, star in Grace and Frankie, which is now in its third season. AP

As the third season begins, the often-fractious friendship shared by uptight Grace and free-spirited Frankie has steered them into marketing a product designed to meet the special needs of women of their vintage. It's a vibrator with thoughtfully large-print directions and a swiveling head that won't aggravate the user's carpal tunnel syndrome or arthritis. Its brand name: Menage a Moi.

Thus does Grace and Frankie, between generous laughs, continue to explore growing older while thumbing its nose at Father Time.

Fonda and Tomlin (today hale and hearty at, respectively, 79 and 77) are the best advertisements for what the series is about. They first worked together in a certain hit film nearly four decades ago.

Fonda had attended a live performance by Tomlin "and I fell in love with her. I was preparing a movie called '9 to 5' that was kind of serious. But after I saw her show, I thought, 'I CAN'T do a movie about secretaries if Lily Tomlin isn't one of them.' And we had to totally redo the movie so it was funny."

Tomlin says she came to the project "totally in awe" of Fonda, and, referring to Fonda's Oscar-winning performance in the 1971 thriller Klute, confides, "I had already worn a Klute hairdo for a couple of years."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gossip DIGEST

ADDICTION

Cocaine ruined my career, Odom says

Lamar Odom says he's "a walking miracle" after being found unconscious with cocaine in his system in a Nevada brothel in 2015. Odom tells US Weekly he hid his cocaine use from ex-wife Khloe Kardashian for a while, but she found out about two years before their 2013 split. Odom blames cocaine for helping end his NBA career.

NEW IMAGE

Rapper Nicki Minaj signs to strike a pose

The Wilhelmina talent and modeling agency has signed Nicki Minaj. "She is a style pioneer and an icon," Wilhelmina CEO Bill Wackermann said about the six-time American Music Award winner's influence on the fashion and beauty industry.

Minaj is known for bold and often risque looks. She was filmed posing in a black-and-silver dress and jeweled headpiece on Westminster Bridge, reportedly for a new video promoting a track she collaborated on with Drake and Lil Wayne.

REUNION

Buffy cast still looks great

Buffy Summers and her old pals from Sunnydale High are reuniting to celebrate the 20th birthday of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Series creator Joss Whedon (pictured) talks with stars Sarah Michelle Gellar, Alyson Hannigan and 10 other cast members on EW Reunites: Buffy the Vampire Slayer, "This is like a high school reunion, but much worse because they all still look really great," Whedon says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The ex facing Witherspoon's wrath

BIG LITTLE LIES

Canadian says being on set is like big leagues of TV

Nova Scotia native James Tupper says being among the group of A-list stars on HBO's hit Big Little Lies is the best thing that's happened to his career.

And he credits a fellow Canadian - Quebec's Jean-Marc Vallee, who directs the show - with giving him the opportunity.

Tupper plays the easygoing ex-husband to Reese Witherspoon's acerbic character in the darkly comedic murder mystery, which creator-writer David E. Kelley based on Liane Moriarty's bestselling novel.

Other cast members on the limited series include Nicole Kidman, Shailene Woodley, Laura Dern, Zoe Kravitz, Alexander Skarsgard and Adam Scott.

"I'll always be a small-town boy from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia," Tupper says from Los Angeles, noting his East Coast family is practically speechless over his success on the show.

"My aunts can't even speak to me - I call them ... 'Hello? Jimmy, I can't believe it. I can't believe it.'

"But just to be in that group of names is obviously the best thing that's happened to my entire career. When you get up to that level, I call it the NBA level, like the top level - everybody is very, very good at their job and very open about working with people. They want the thing to work and they're supportive and give it every reason to succeed."

The former star of "Men in Trees," "Revenge" and "Aftermath" says Vallee was his advocate from the beginning when he auditioned for the role of Nathan on "Big Little Lies," which follows the complicated lives of three mothers after a murder in the seaside town of Monterey, Calif.

"Jean-Marc is one of the most open and giving human beings and I feel like when I went in and auditioned for this, he was one of the really big reasons I got it," says Tupper, "because people in Hollywood tend to want to cast a big star or a big name and he was just like, 'No, you're perfect for this and this is exactly right for you and I want you to do it.'"

Vallee's other directing credits include "Dallas Buyers Club," for which he got an editing Oscar nomination, and "Wild," which earned Witherspoon and Dern Oscar nominations.

"I'll tell you frankly, and I'm not exaggerating: he's one of the humblest, kindest, most intelligent people I have ever met," Tupper says of Vallee.

"One day this guy was there ... walking around set and I'm like, 'Hi, what's your name? ... What do you do on the film crew again?'

"And he's like, 'I met Jean-Marc at a dinner party about a week ago and I mentioned to him that I really want to become a director and he said, "Come on set and tail me for the week."'"

Tupper says Witherspoon slyly established the bitter chemistry between their characters, who share custody of their children - before the cameras even started rolling.

"She was like, 'Hi, James,' she was very pejorative, a bit caustic," he says with a laugh.

"So we would get into the scenes and we'd do them and at the very end she opened up to me in this lovely way, because she's such a sweet and earnest and open person, and we ended up now having a friendship.

"But the whole time we were doing it I wasn't quite sure. I was like, 'Uh, hi, Reese.'"

The show is making headlines for its realistic portrayal of domestic violence, based on a storyline involving the characters played by Kidman and Skarsgard.

"You get a chance to delve into the psychology and that's one of the things I'm probably proudest of," says Tupper.

"If you get to participate with a group of artists and make something that's really truthful, that's about the highest you can go, in my opinion. They don't skim the surface.... It's really gnarly."

The seventh and final instalment of Big Little Lies airs Sunday on HBO Canada and Tupper — who would only reveal that he and Kravitz sing in the episode— will be watching.

"It's the only time I've had a viewing party," he says. "Every Sunday a bunch of my friends come over and we order pizza and watch it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nova Scotia's James Tupper and Zoe Kravitz star in HBO's hit series Big Little Lies. CONTRIBUTED

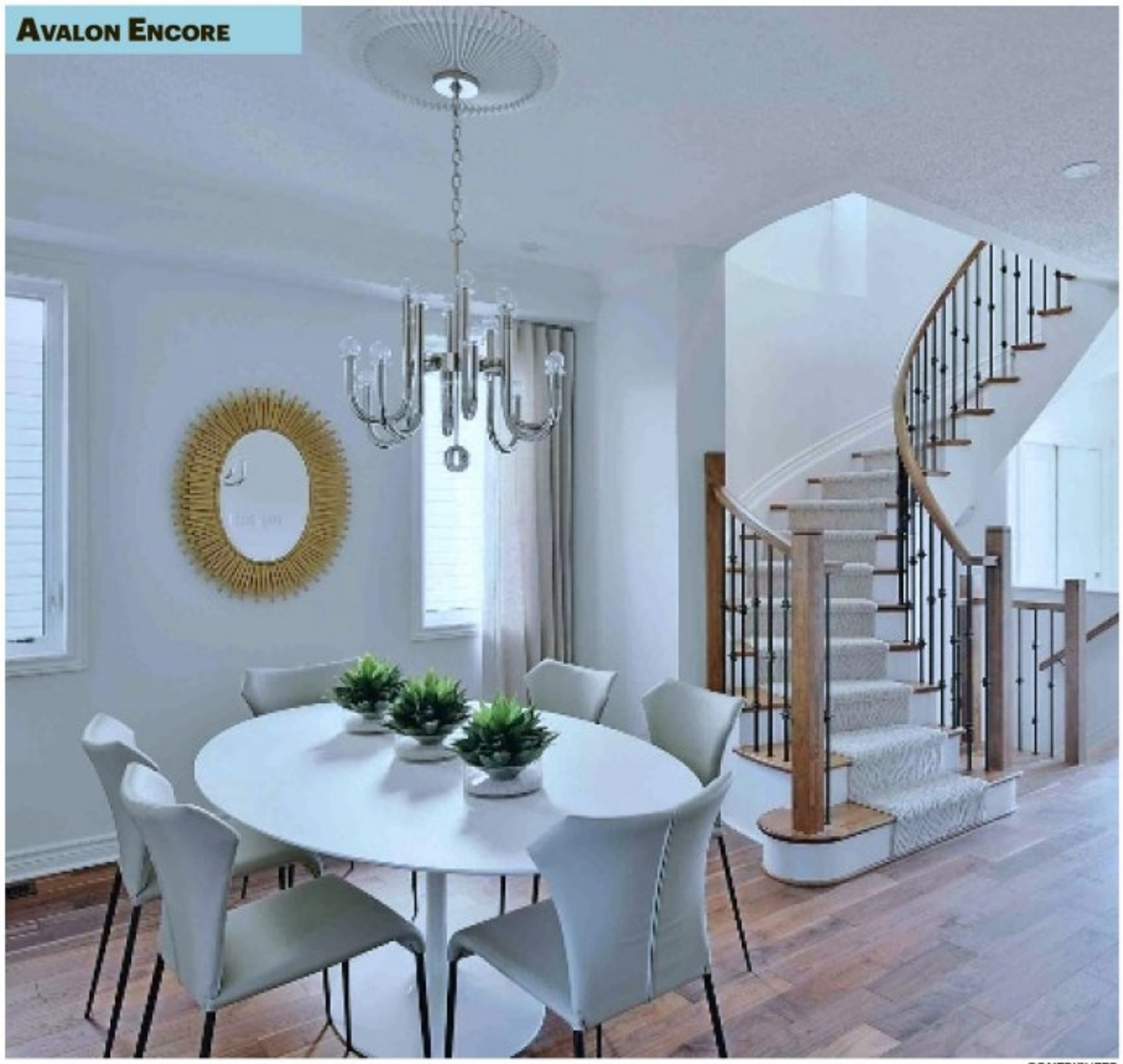
metro HOME

Your essential daily news

TLC announces popular home renovation show Trading Spaces will return in 2018

MEET THE CONDO

Avalon impresses with Encore development



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Minto launched Avalon Encore in 2014, and have built over 5,000 homes in the neighbourhood to date. The site is still in development, but has many move-in-soon homes available. Avalon Encore has a range of singles, townhomes and terrace homes to choose from, and there are eight model homes available for touring.

Housing amenities

Minto redesigned their models when Avalon Encore was launched. These homes include spacious rooms with large windows, open concept floorplans, large kitchens, higher ceilings and extra storage spaces. All singles and townhomes have front and backyards and garages, while the terrace homes have designated outdoor parking spaces.

Location and transit

The site is in a prime location east of Ottawa that not only offers convenient access to Place D'Orléans shopping centre, but plenty of other amenities as well. Avalon Encore is not far from several transit routes, which can take commuters straight downtown. There are shopping, entertainment, dining and recreation options in the area as well.

In the neighbourhood

The location is an ideal choice for families. Minto's plan focuses not just on building houses, but also the communities surrounding them. Avalon Encore includes parks, walking trails, a pond and new schools. Whether moving to accommodate a growing family or downsizing as empty-nesters, there is an option here for everyone. ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Avalon Encore
Builder/Designer: Minto
Location: Off of Tenth Line Road
Building: Singles, townhomes and terrace homes
Model: Two to four bedrooms, 1.5 to 3.5 bathrooms
Sizes: : From 1,028 to 3,294 square feet
Pricing: Starting at $369,900
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Anytime
Sales centre: 2370 Tenth Line Rd., Orléans
Phone: (613) 834-6400
Website: minto.com

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DESIGN

Acrylics a versatile furniture option

Clear the way for acrylics. Furniture makers are using the see-through material for everything from couch legs and bed posts to tables and footstools.

Acrylic is ideal for small rooms because it doesn't make the space look or feel crowded, said Sheila Schmitz, an editor with Houzz, an online source of interior design photos and decorating ideas.

"It can be a functional piece that doesn't add visual clutter," she said.

The pieces are lighter, stronger and less expensive than glass, said Tara Donovan, style director at Wayfair, an online home goods store. "It's more malleable and easy to work with, so it can be worked into more shapes," she said.

Clear furniture also can make small spaces feel more open and inviting, said Karen Mills, an interior designer with Interiors by Design, Inc., in Lenexa, Kansas. "It's lighter and brighter," she said. "It bounces that light around."

Even something as simple as an acrylic chair can make a statement, as designer Philippe Starck proved more than a decade ago with his Ghost Chair — a clear replica of the classic Louis XV armchair, Mills said. The chair helped launch the resurgence in acrylic furniture, she said.

Now, you can find clear chairs to fit any room. Add a vibrant cushion and clear chairs — along with benches and footstools — can become a centerpiece, said Mills. "When you put fabric on it, it just looks like it's floating. It adds a touch of fantasy," she said.

Acrylic really shines when accessorized with pops of colour and texture, agreed Emily Arnow, editor at AllModern.com, an online furniture store. "It's there, but not really there, so it's a great complement to bolder pieces," she said.

A gold and acrylic bed by Bernhardt Furniture Company. CONTRIBUTED

Clear legs on couches, chairs and cabinets can "create a look of suspended animation," said Michelle Lamb, editorial director with The Trend Curve, an industry observer in Eden Prairie, Minn. "It may take you a second or two to realize what's going on. Once you figure it out, you can't stop looking at it."

Or if you prefer, the pieces can take a backseat to other furnishings in the room. "You're getting the function without taking up much visual space," said Donovan.

Designers often use acrylic when they want to highlight another element in the room, she said. Clear tables are a way to accentuate beautiful carpets, she said. Whereas clear chairs will not detract from an ornate desk or a dining table.

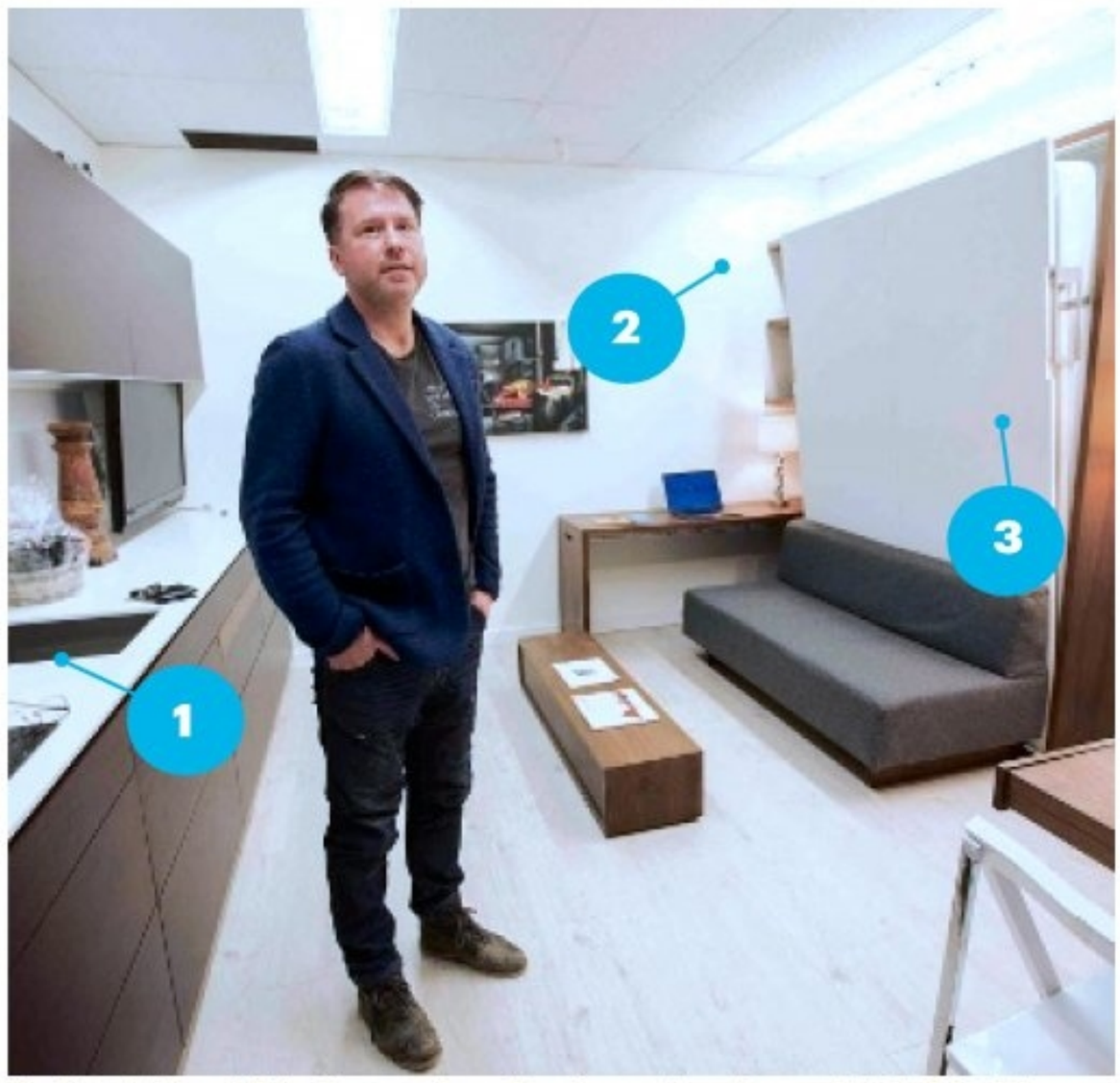
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How to make a tiny condo

HOUSING

Researcher constructs 230-square-foot home in lab

Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton



Tim Antoniuk is redefining how people can live, showcasing a tiny condo he built in a lab. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Tim Antoniuk's prototype tiny condo redefines what most would consider a "cosy" living room.

The University of Alberta industrial design researcher has built a 230-square-foot living space in his university lab — including a kitchen, bathroom, sitting area and a fold-down bed — as part of a project to provide a glimpse into what the future of housing could look like.

"But it's not just for hip millennials," Antoniuk said Tuesday. "It can be affordable housing for people who need something downtown, close to work where everything can be easily accessed."

Antoniuk argues Edmonton is at a "tipping point" where we're going to have to start thinking differently about how we live.

"We're seeing our downtown transform, but it's going to get more expensive as property values go up."

And as values rise, only the wealthy will be able to afford to move in, he added.

"There's a whole host of issues about affordability and keeping downtown areas vibrant and diverse," he said. "This could do that."

He built it to study how tiny homes can be constructed effectively, he said, and members of the public can also come see it, he said.

Antoniuk estimates the condo could be built in the real market for about $150,000, and would be more cost-effective for developers because they can build more units per square foot.

"It's actually cheaper to buy a micro condo than rent an apartment," he said.

The condo features a sliding wall, "telescoping" drawers, a washroom and a bed that retracts from the wall. If done right, the space feels much larger than it is, Antoniuk said.

"People are always surprised when they come check it out — they always say it feels double the size.

"It's all about making a space feel as beautiful and wonderful as possible."

Antoniuk hopes to build a tiny condo geared for large families in the future to show the mini spaces can function for them, too.

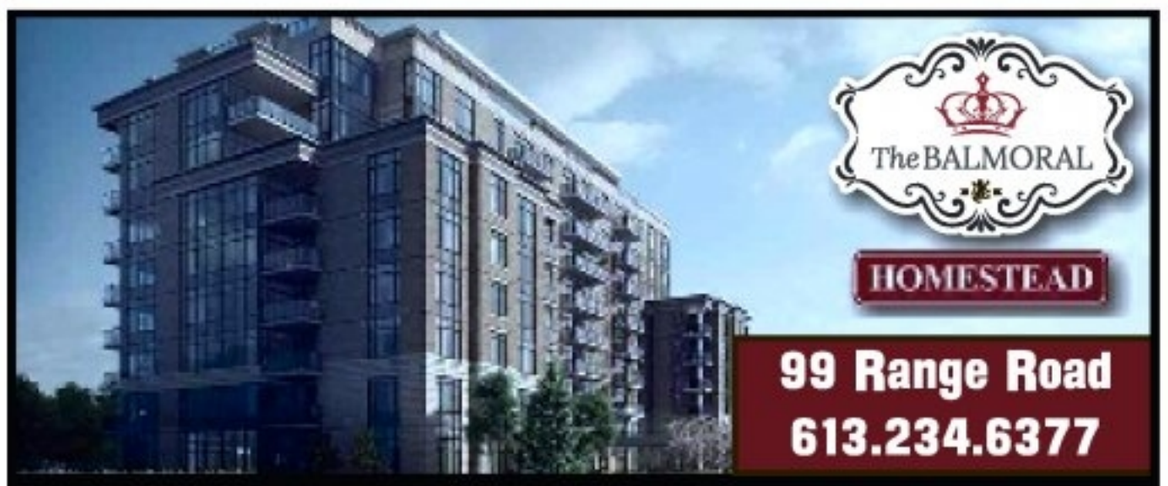
HOW TO MAKE A TINY CONDO WORK

1 Versatile Kitchen: This isn't your ordinary kitchen. You still get a sink, stove and countertop, but you're also able to pull a TV out from one the cabinets. This can be easily tucked away when you aren't watching a show, or need to use the kitchen to cook.

2 Multipurpose wall: The wall has a slab of walnut wood embedded in it that can be used as a cutting board, or as a table that seats up to seven. The wall also includes other storage cabinets for clothes, shoes or other possessions you don't want lying around.

3 Wall bed: A tiny condo still means you can sleep on a nice queen-sized bed. The difference, however, is you'll have stow it away into the wall every day. Once you do that, a foldable couch can be pulled out from underneath the bed.

4 Sliding wall: You can't see it here, but a sliding wall divides the bathroom from the general living space — a necessity when you have to do your business. Sliding walls could also be added in different areas throughout the condo, which would be necessary when you need some alone time.



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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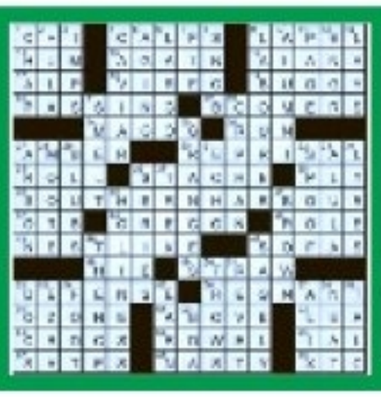

4	2	8	5	9	7	1	6	3
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5	4	9	1	3	8	2	7	6
2	7	3	4	6	9	8	1	5
3	6	2	7	8	4	5	9	1
9	8	1	6	5	3	7	2	4
7	5	4	9	1	2	6	3	8

SEE, SAVE, CALL THE MOVERS | *Developers offering cash incentives, fast condo closings*

By SHEILA BRADY

Condo buying has picked up speed, with a select number of Ottawa developers offering big cash discounts and quick closings.

Impatient buyers can walk through a condo, check out a nearby model suite and two to four weeks later be unpacking boxes, hanging their favourite painting on the living room wall and toasting their new home with a chilled glass of Chardonnay.

Traditionally, the best deals are to buy a condo off paper plans in the early days of a project, hand healthy deposits to the developer and then wait two to three years for construction to be finished.

Condo buying takes a patient buyer.

Now, the timeline has sped up, with developers wanting to finish off sales and woo buyers with bonuses on finished condos.

Dedicated football fans hankering after a front row seat to the Grey Cup contest in November may be interested in a pair of two-storey condo suites by Minto at Lansdowne Park. The 1,400-square-foot and 1,774-square-foot condos face the Rideau Canal and Bank Street, but buyers have full access to the party room and unobstructed views of football games.

Occupancy bonuses range from $5,000 to $30,000, says a Minto Development representative.

Dedicated urbanites can also save $276,000 off the original asking price of a customized penthouse on the 15th floor of Richcraft's Galleria 11 at 238 Besserer St. The new $999,000 price includes the two glass terraces, stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer and big helpings of granite.

"We want to sell," says Shawn Bellman, marketing director Richcraft Homes, adding there are nine condos remaining out of the 197 units in the glass and brick building designed by respected Ottawa architect Rod Lahey.

"People come in from out of town and want a quick occupancy," says Bellman, adding there are also quick closing available at the Bowery, an industrial inspired Bay Street condo which was completed late last year. Workers are finishing off the building's amenities, including a roof top terrace and pool.

> "People can move in four or even two weeks." ~ Bellman

"People can move in four or even two weeks," says Bellman.

There is a large supply of condos in the Ottawa market and builders want to sell their final units because that's where their profits are, says Patrick Meeks, a veteran observer of the Ottawa housing market and director of HorizonBI.

The condo market has shrunk from the heyday of the mid 2000s when young and older buyers lined up for hours to buy smaller and affordable condos in the Byward Market and the downtown core.

Builders jumped into the condo market, yet Ottawa does not have the size or the deep investor market of Toronto to buy up the supply of condos, explains Brent Strachan, senior vice president of Minto Developments.

There are also other factors, including the market depth of older buyers or "rightsizers" who take time to sell their family home and investing in a condo.

"The incentives may encourage older buyers to get off the fence and buy," says Meeks.

Condo sales now represent 10 per cent of all new home sales, compared to almost 20 per cent a decade ago. "Buying bonuses have become the norm since 2012," says Strachan, adding Minto is offering healthy bonuses at their finished condos on Beechwood and Upper West in Westboro.

"People can come in, walk through models, and buy," says Strachan.

There are no options to change designs or finishings because construction is finished, but the bonus is a quick occupancy.

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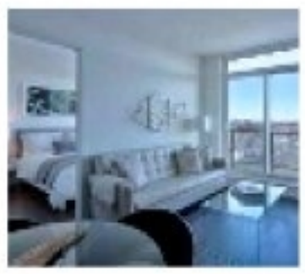

- Ashton Suite - 532 sq.ft.
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An odd bronze bust stole the show — and set the internet aflame — at the unveiling of the renamed Aeroporto Cristiano Ronaldo in Funchal, Portugal

Expos-eh? Montreal bid makes headway

MLB

Investors meet league's conditions for a team: Source

A group of Montreal investors has met the conditions laid out by Major League Baseball to get a team back in the city, a source has told The Canadian Press.

"I can tell you we are no longer looking for investors and that we believe we have all the ingredients to be able to welcome a team, be it an expansion one or one that already exists," the person said on condition of anonymity.

The source said the investors have a solid financial set-up, support from two levels of government, various potential locations for a stadium as well as at least five different designs for the venue.

"We are not going to say we favour one site or another," the source said. "But it's crucial for the (eventual) site to be well served by public transit."

2004

The Expos left Montreal after the 2004 season and became the Washington Nationals.

The Blue Jays have annually played a pair of exhibition games at Olympic Stadium since 2014.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

As for what the stadium would look like, the person said there is a lot of flexibility.

"We can choose the version we want," the source added. "There are five. They are preliminary plans and we could easily rework them once the project has been launched."

The investors are just waiting for a call from MLB commissioner Rob Manfred to get the ball rolling.

"For me, the most important element in all this is the team," the person said." All the other areas are sufficiently advanced."

Montreal businessmen Stephen Bronfman and Mitch Garber publicly revealed their commitment last year to the project, while Bronfman and Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre co-signed a 2015 letter that was sent to the 30 MLB teams as well as to Manfred. The letter spoke of Montreal's interest in rejoining the major leagues.

Manfred said last year he would like two teams added to MLB in order to make scheduling easier. But he also said that scenario had to wait until the issue of stadiums in Oakland and Tampa was settled.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

RULED OUT

- Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Gregory Polanco will not travel with the team for its two exhibition games against the Toronto Blue Jays in Montreal on Friday and Saturday.
- Polanco has played in just one spring training game since returning from his run with the Dominican Republic team in the World Baseball Classic, where he hit .579 in five games.

HOCKEY

U.S. women receive significant pay raise

Just three days before hosting the world championships, USA Hockey and the women's national team reached an agreement to end a wage dispute and avoid a boycott on home ice.

The four-year deal finalized Tuesday night pays players beyond the six-month Olympic period, up to $129,000 if they win Olympic gold and improves development of the sport.

"We didn't want to settle for something that wasn't going to push women's hockey as far as we thought it was able to go," U.S. captain Meghan Duggan said by phone. "Really excited about what this brings for the future of women's hockey."

Coming off making just $1,000 a month for six months around the Olympics, this contract pays players roughly $3,000 a month. Annual compensation can surpass $70,000 when combined with contributions from the United States Olympic Committee. Players receive Olympic medal bonuses of $20,000 for gold and $15,000 for silver from USA Hockey and $37,500 for gold, $22,500 for silver and $15,000 for bronze from the USOC. It could be a banner year for the women's national team if successful at the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Oilers end long run of early summers

There will finally be playoff hockey again in Edmonton.

Cam Talbot made 34 saves as the Oilers officially qualified for the playoffs for the first time since the 2005-2006 season with a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday.

"It's a special feeling tonight, especially seeing how passionate the crowd was and how excited they were," said Edmonton forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. "We've had some tough years, but it's all worth it right now."

Connor McDavid and Eric Gryba scored for the Oilers (42-25-9).

"It's definitely special, you saw the excitement in the building," McDavid said. "The fans are excited, we're excited. There is a lot of work left to be done still, though." THE CANADIAN PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS

25

The Detroit Red Wings' playoff streak is over after 25 seasons, the third-longest run in NHL history. Detroit last missed in 1989-90 and have won four Stanley Cup since.

10

The Edmonton Oilers' playoff drought is over after 10 seasons, by far the longest in the illustrious franchise's almost 40-year history.

Leone in the mix for final bullpen spot

No one was talking to Dominic Leone, or about him, as the Blue Jays played out their final day of spring training in Florida.

Leone, a right-handed reliever who had stops in Seattle and Arizona before being claimed off waivers last November, worked a clean seventh inning in the Jays' 3-1 loss to the Yankees that wrapped up their Grapefruit League schedule.

Toronto still has bullpen decisions to make. Leone has pitched well enough to make the opening-day roster but he has minor-league options and will likely end up in Buffalo. The same is true for right-hander Ryan Tepera. Another righty, Mike Bolsinger, is out of options and will likely stick with the Jays.

"I'm just glad I'm still here," Leone said as he joined the rest of the Jays heading to Montreal for exhibition games against Pittsburgh on Friday and Saturday. "Whatever happens, at least I'm here and I've put myself in the conversation."

Dominic Leone
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jays manager John Gibbons has stressed over the past few days that the pitcher who gets the nod for the final spot needs to be able to pitch multiple innings.

The Jays will obviously need long relief help early in the season. While their starting rotation looks splendid, all five are exiting spring training with pitch counts of between 60 and 70. It will take a week or more for them to ramp up to 90 and beyond, so the bullpen could be under some pressure to pick up the slack.

Gibbons noted that Bolsinger, who started 21 games for the Dodgers in 2015, can handle multiple-inning assignments. But he also felt Tepera and Leone are capable the same.

Leone had a breakthrough season in 2014, joining the Mariners in early April and going 8-2 with a 2.17 ERA and 70 strikeouts in 66-1/3 innings. He admitted he struggled in Arizona — he had a 7.34 ERA in 28 appearances with the Diamondbacks in 2015 and 2016. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

McMorris on road to recovery, eyes Olympics

The brother of injured Canadian snowboarding star Mark McMorris says the Olympic medallist is steadily improving in hospital following an accident in B.C.'s backcountry over the weekend.

"Right now in his head, he's going to the Olympics," McMorris's older brother Craig added, four days after the crash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duhamel, Radford in seventh at worlds

Canada's Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford are seventh after struggling in their pairs short program at the world figure skating championships in Helsinki.

The two-time world champions earned 72.67 points for their routine set to "Killer" by pop star Seal.

Radford is battling an injury to his right hip.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TODAY

Crunchy Asparagus Fries

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You'll never look at asparagus the same way again after you try this crunchy version of a fry.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 bunch of fresh organic asparagus, cleaned and ends snapped off
- 1/2 cup spelt flour
- 1/4 cup panko
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup multi-grain bread crumbs
- 1 tsp ground garlic
- 2 eggs
- salt and pepper
- 1 tsp olive oil

Directions

1. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray and set aside. Preheat the oven to 375.

2. Place spelt flour on a plate. In a wide, shallow bowl, whisk the eggs with a fork. Then mix panko, parmesan cheese, bread crumbs and garlic in another wide, shallow bowl. Now you've got your dredging station ready.

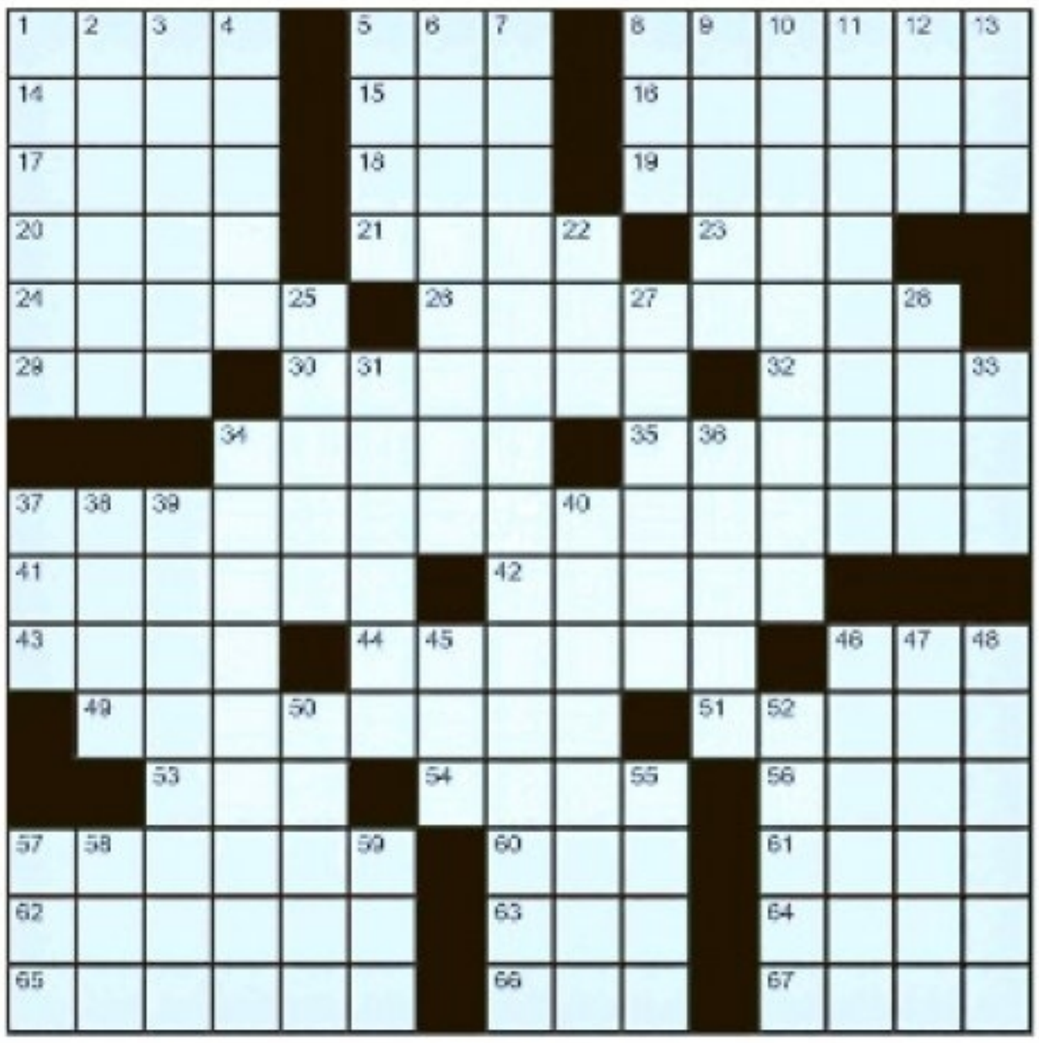
3. Taking three or four stalks of asparagus at a time, coat them in flour, then drop them in the egg. Finally, roll them in the panko mixture and place them on the prepared baking sheet, leaving a bit of space between them. Repeat until you've finished the entire bunch of asparagus. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

4. Pop the baking sheet in the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the breading is golden brown and crisp.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Prep the baking flour
5. Movie studio
8. Sophisticated sofa
14. Understood
15. "Give __ chance!" (Come on, please!)
16. Yukon: __ National Park and Reserve
17. __ of Man
18. Eggs packaging [abbr.]
19. Pro dancer of DWTS fame, Louis Van __
20. Donkey/horse
21. "Woe __!" (Boo-hoo!)
23. 'Dial' add-on
24. Nudges
26. Nepean, Ontario born star: 2 wds.
29. Archery wood
30. Alberta Badlands: Pillar-shaped geological formation with a flat top
32. Ark guy
34. Category
35. Policing weapons
37. Michelangelo's David of 1504 and Moses of 1515: 2 wds.
41. Texas city: 2 wds.
42. "End of the Road" by Boyz __ __
43. Torch the iron
44. Victorian-style overcoat
46. Bread roll variety
49. Step all over
51. Oil __
53. __ degree
54. Have __ (Taste the beverage)
56. Tomato variety
57. 'Orange' tea selections
60. Belonging to Knoxville's Ii'l state
61. Cognizant of the confidentiality: 2 wds.
62. Betters
63. Initials-sharers of Barbra Streisand's first husband
64. Light fog
65. David Bowie's "__ Love"
66. Q-U's middle
67. Stars in scenes

DOWN
1. Hardly habilimented
2. Be a Sun Life Financial customer
3. Gent
4. Canadian wife of rocker Gene Simmons, Shannon __
5. Gladiator's 2101
6. Becomes ticked: 2 wds.
7. Nuclear explosion or #51-Across: 2 wds.
8. Music style
9. "__ Gantry" (1960)
10. 2003 romantic comedy starring #26-Across and Diane Lane, "Under the __ __"
11. Skin pic applier
12. Mariner's dir.
13. Tube-shaped fish
22. Rock producer Brian
25. Elvis' 'Old' dog-in-song, and namesakes
27. Serve a sentence: 2 wds.
28. Tortoise's competition
31. What a rock band is when getting a lot of mileage out of a private jet: 2 wds.
33. "Amelia" (2009) actress ...her initials-sharers
34. Manitoba community known for its 'Happy Rock' attraction
36. New __ (Avant-garde musicians)
37. Stitch
38. Canadian actor Walter Pidgeon's role in "Mrs. Miniver" (1942)
39. Connected to the satellite
40. Bridal salon appointments
45. Grassland
46. "The __ Woman" (Lindsay Wagner's '70s series)
47. Nearly
48. Garden's greenery
50. "__ __. Oz Show"
52. Ms. Ballerina
55. "Hey, there..."
57. Cooking spray
58. Comedian Mr. Philips
59. US tax ID

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might have thoughts today about how to revolutionize a marriage, partnership or close friendship. Maybe these are ideas percolating in your mind for some time?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because this is a year where you can get a better job or improve your existing job, you are full of big ideas! Today some of these ideas might come to fruition.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You might take a new approach to dealing with kids, as well as vacations and the time that you take for fun and pleasure. You need to balance work and play!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is the year when you can figure out how to get your dream home. Today you might have ideas about how to improve your existing home or get another one. Exciting!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might be surprised by the ideas you have to introduce improvements to your world. It's encouraging. New ideas lead to new results and a new future.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Many of you see new ways of making money. Many of you also see better ways of taking care of what you already own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's almost as if something is in the air, because you are keen to make improvements for yourself and the world around This is a healthy attitude!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Many of you have been more tuned in to your spiritual world than usual. You are aware that what goes on inside affects things that go on outside.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your relationship with a friend or perhaps a group is changing now. Fortunately, it's changing for the better; and this is a good thing.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This year you'll make an excellent impression on your world, especially on bosses, parents and VIPs. Today you might have ideas about how to do this.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Travel plans, as well as plans to get further education, are exciting! This week you might consider doing something you never thought you would do before.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can improve the arrangements you have about inheritances, wills and shared property. Something will happen this year that benefits you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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TARION

Talking

Not talking

Workers at the Canadian Hearing Society have been on strike since March 6th. True negotiations require effort, and that is how this strike will get resolved. *Both parties have to put in the time it takes to talk, to understand, to compromise, to find solutions.* We owe it to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, who rely on the vital services we provide. We are willing to do the hard work of true negotiating. We hope the CHS is, too.

A message from **CUPE 2073**